

KRAB KRONICLE

506th Aerospace Expeditionary Group

EXPEDITIONARY AIRMEN • SUSTAINING GLOBAL REACH • MAINTAINING AIR DOMINANCE
AND SUPPORT • TO STABILIZE A NATION • SO FREEDOM CAN FLOURISH



Vol. 1, Issue 11

Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq

July 11, 2003



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lee Osberry Jr.

Pull!

Members of the 506th Expeditionary Security Police Squadron battle their way to victory over the Army's 433rd Air Evacuation Squadron. For final results from the Fourth of July Extravaganza, see page 6.

506th AEG provides assistance for Team RIO after early morning attack

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Getsy
506th Air Expeditionary Group
Public Affairs

Members of the 506th Air Expeditionary Group proved that when called upon, they're ready to react no matter the time of day or the situation.

With very short notice, the 506th was called upon to house members of Team Restore Iraqi Oil, or Team RIO, after they were attacked at their hotel in Kirkuk city Monday morning.

It was just after 5 a.m. when Team

Rio's hotel was struck by three rocket-propelled grenades, which all exploded, shattering windows and filling the hotel with smoke.

"You were knocked out of your bed," said Nola Conway, public affairs officer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Southwestern Division Team RIO's Northern Project Area Office. "The first thing we thought of was accounting for everyone, to make sure no one was injured. Our team includes soldiers, DoD civilians and contractors. Our military kept us in a safe location,

ensuring our safety, while they assessed the situation and coordinated a response."

Conway said military and contract security in the area and members of the 173rd Airborne Brigade immediately secured the area while everyone else was transported away from the scene and eventually to Kirkuk Air Base.

Unbelievably, no one was seriously hurt in the incident. A few suffered minor cuts and bruises.

"We feel very fortunate," said

See "RIO" on page 7

Construction under way on new kitchen

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Getsy
506th Air Expeditionary Group
Public Affairs

As living conditions continue to improve at Kirkuk Air Base, so will people's dining experiences.

The 506th Expeditionary Services Squadron is in the process of erecting a new double 9-1 kitchen, which is expected to be operational within a few weeks.

According to Master Sgt. David Wisecarver, project officer for the new kitchen, with the tents already finished, the next step is to complete all the structural work. Once that is finished, the services squadron will begin moving all the food service equipment inside and the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron will hook up all the necessary electrical and plumbing needs.

"The current Single Pallet Expeditionary Kitchen is designed to feed approximately 250 people per meal," said Wisecarver. "The double 9-1 kitchen will support more than 2,000 people per meal and is completely electric. An additional benefit is that all the food functions, such as serving lines and dining area, are integrated under one structure so people won't have to carry their food outside from one facility to the next."

Does all of this mean fresh food? Not right away, according to Wisecarver. He said the command is working hard to establish a Prime Vendor contract for fresh food.

"When the contract is in place, Kirkuk airmen can expect the same quality of food as other locations within the AOR (area of responsibility)," said

Wisecarver. "Until then, we will continue to serve unit group rations as determined by the Army."

The new kitchen also will bring an extra meal. Wisecarver said the plan right now is to serve breakfast, lunch and dinner. Once the fresh food contract is established, services will look at adjusting the meals as needed.

"This is a huge morale boost for both our customers and our food service team," said Wisecarver. "Our customers will have a more pleasant, spacious environment to dine in, and over time, more quality food items will arrive and programs will be established aimed at supporting the men and women of Kirkuk. Additionally, our food service team will be able to use safe, familiar equipment comparable to what they use at their home stations."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Getsy

Distinguished visit
506th Air Expeditionary Group officials greet Maj. Gen. Larry Twitchell, acting deputy Combined Forces Air Component commander and the mobilization assistant to the 9th Air Force commander, during his visit to Kirkuk Tuesday. During the general's visit, he received tours of the base, 606th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron and 303rd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron.

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(Flag is courtesy of Michelle Butzgy, Pope AFB, N.C.)

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Editor

News briefs

Tidy Friday

Today is designated "Tidy Friday." There is a mandatory formation at 7 a.m. to clean up tent city. Call your first sergeant for more details.

Redeployment briefings

Redeployment briefings are held every Tuesday and Friday at 7 a.m. in the deployment processing center, the large clam shell near the base exchange. For more information, call 460-0194.

Right Start briefing

The Right Start briefing for those who just arrived is held every Tuesday and Friday at 9 a.m. in the deployment processing center. For more information, call 460-0194.

506th AEF coins, T-shirts on sale

Pre-sales of coins are available at the Cantina for \$5 each. The coins are scheduled to arrive Tuesday. People who pre-order a coin and are scheduled to depart can leave a pre-addressed envelop and it will be

shipped free of charge. Limit is one coin per person. T-shirt sales are ongoing at the Cantina. Cost is \$10 per shirt. People are limited to one shirt until more shirts are ordered.

Cantina dress code

People can wear either civilian attire or full uniform to the Cantina. Additionally, the Cantina is a no-hat area.

Protocol assistance

Anyone sponsoring a distinguished visitor onto Kirkuk must contact Lt. Laura Yardley at 460-0132 or laura.yardley@krab.aor-centaf.af.mil.

Continental breakfast

The dining facility will only serve continental breakfasts until the new kitchen is operational. For more information, call 460-0605.

Vaccinations

Anthrax and Small Pox vaccinations are administered Fridays from 8 a.m. to noon at the 506th Expeditionary Medical Squadron's facility in tent city.

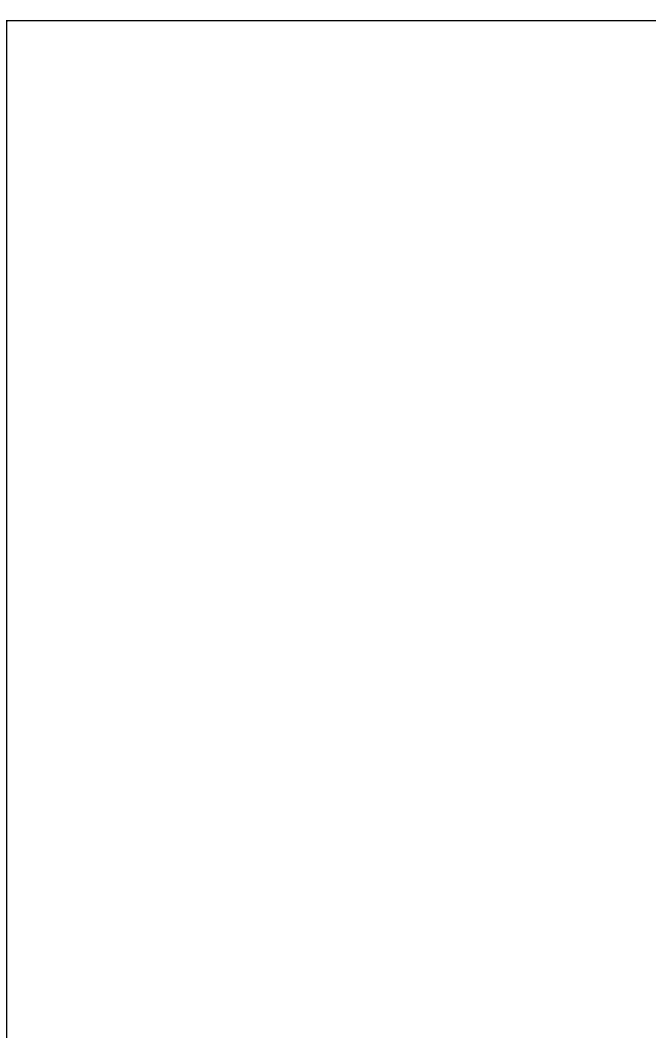


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Getsy

So help me God!

Lt. Col. Tracey Walker, 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron commander, reenlists Staff Sgt. Ryan Groves, Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician, during a disposal of 10,000 pounds of captured enemy munitions Saturday. Groves is from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

Chapel Schedule

Saturday

5 p.m. -- Catholic Mass

Sunday

8 a.m. -- Protestant/Gospel Service

10 a.m. -- Protestant Service

11:30 a.m. -- Catholic Mass

1 p.m. -- Latter-Day Saints Meeting

2 p.m. -- Catholic Mass (Sky Soldiers Chapel)

7 p.m. Protestant Service

Monday

7 p.m. Catholic Video Pres./Class

Tuesday

6 a.m. Bible Study -- Book of Romans

Wednesday

7 p.m. Bible Study -- Book of Daniel

Thursday

7 p.m. Video Studies on Creation/Evolution

Friday

7 p.m. Bible Study -- Book of Daniel

All services are held at the Ten Days From Tomorrow Chapel unless otherwise noted. Times are subject to change.

Perspective

The Cantina's a privilege, not a right

By Master Sgt. Jack Ladley
506th Air Expeditionary Group
first sergeant

Let's just cut to the chase. For 80 days, or there about, many of us have had no time off and have worked 18-hour days. We've lived through some rough times and our victories were minor miracles like flushing toilets and a hot meal.

We've been dragging rump and looking like we just stepped off the set of "night of the living dead." Then, Col. Jim Callahan, 506th Air Expeditionary Group commander, did the unbelievable June 26. He authorized and opened the Cantina – the only establishment of its type in Iraq. You will not find one in Tallil or Baghdad.

This brought smiles to faces and put a kick in our step. Fewer and fewer people were working 18-hour days. People actually had a reason to stop, take a deep breath and enjoy a refreshing beverage and the company of their comrades.

As I walk around the base talking with people, the most common question is no longer, "When are we going home, shirt?" Rather, it's "Are you going to the Cantina tonight, shirt?" You bet I am ... if it is still open that is. You see, the boss isn't happy, and when the boss isn't happy, nobody's happy.

Recently we had an individual who tried to circumvent the ration system by printing duplicate ration cards. This person decided that three beers a night wasn't enough. In the process, this person could have jeopardized your three beers a night. Fortunately, this airman wasn't very bright and is no longer with us. Unfortunately, there is now a glaring spotlight on our beloved Cantina ... and folks, that spotlight is illuminating some ugliness. We have to clean "our house" if



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Getsy

The Cantina offers people a chance to relax and mingle with others.

we are going to keep it.

Over the last few nights, you may have noticed chiefs and first sergeants hanging around more than they had been in the past. We are doing things like checking ration and identification cards, ensuring the trash cans are not overflowing and ensuring people are wearing their uniform properly.

We are not doing these things to ruin your fun. Quite the contrary, actually. We are doing these things to keep your fun going. We can't do it alone though. We need your help if we are going to successfully keep the Cantina open.

We are precariously close to losing this privilege and it hasn't even been open two weeks. It is up to you to keep the Cantina operational. Following and enforcing these eight simple rules will ensure our Cantina remains the most unique establishment in Iraq:

- ☐ Only three beers per day per person;
- ☐ All beverages are to be purchased

and consumed at the Cantina;

- ☐ Do not have anyone else's ration card in your possession;
- ☐ If you make a mess, clean it;
- ☐ If you see a mess you didn't make, clean it;
- ☐ If you pass a trash can that is overflowing, empty it;
- ☐ Don't drop your cigarette butts on the ground ... unless you want a no smoking policy;
- ☐ When at the Cantina in uniform, keep your uniform blouse on and correct those that do not.

You may have just arrived here and don't know what it was like in the early days. If you were here in the early days, I am certain you remember the lean times. We have made huge strides toward improving our quality of life. It is up to each of us to continue pushing for improvements. Closing the Cantina would be a shame ... and a step in the wrong direction. Do your part to keep the fun alive and the Cantina open for business.

KRAB-style Independence Day



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Getsy

Members of the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron give it their all during the HUMVEE pull.



Photo by Capt. Jill Whitesell

The 506th Expeditionary Services Squadron prepared a barbecue complete with all the fixins'.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Getsy

Paul Miller, 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, stretches to make a play during the volleyball competition.

Final results from Fourth of July base-wide competitions

Team	Points	506th ECES	.25	508th	.12	3rd Latcon	.8
506th EAMX	.60	503rd HHC	.22	506th SVS	.10	Delta	.8
173rd HHC	.44	506th CS	.21	14th	.10	22nd Infantry	.7
D Batt 319th	.35	506th MASF	.18	74th LRS	.9	B Co. 212th Infantry	.4
506th SFS	.32	506th EMEDS	.16	506th ELRS	.9	Bravo 163rd	.4
173rd CSC	.31	Chosen 503rd	.16	250th FST	.9	112th Infantry	.3
506th OSS	.27	201st	.14	B Co. 201st FSB	.9	COU	.3
501st	.26	110th MI	.13	509th	.8	215th	.2

EOD ordnance item of the week

Projectiles – These items can range from small mortar rounds to large artillery. The different types of projectiles have many different purposes ranging from armor piercing to illuminations. Many of

these ordnance are explosive. Many of these ordnance have sensitive fuzing systems and should not be bothered or tampered with. If you encounter any of these ordnance call EOD immediately.



Photo courtesy of EOD

Feature

Livin' life: KRAB-style



Photos by Senior Airman Lee Smith

The 24-hour Cyber Cafe currently allows people to connect with family and friends via the Internet. Within a few weeks, the cafe also will offer tent city residents the opportunity to make morale calls.



Staff Sgt. James Clark, right, 506th Expeditionary Services Squadron, assists a customer at the recreation center. The center is open 24 hours.



Base members soak up the sun at the swimming pool, located next to the recreation center. The pool is open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Scores and more

MLB standings

(Current as of Thursday)

American League

East	W	L	GB
NY Yankees	55	34	-
Boston	52	37	3
Toronto	48	43	8
Baltimore	39	47	14.5
Texas	31	57	23.5

Central

Kansas City	48	39	-
Minnesota	44	45	5
Chicago White Sox	43	46	6
Cleveland	38	51	11
Detroit	23	65	25.5

West

Seattle	56	32	-
Oakland	50	39	6.5
Anaheim	44	43	11.5
Texas	37	52	19.5

National League

East	W	L	GB
Atlanta	58	31	-
Philadelphia	49	39	8.5
Montréal	48	43	11
Florida	47	45	12.5
New York	39	50	19

Central

Houston	47	43	-
St. Louis	46	44	1
Chicago Cubs	46	44	1
Pittsburgh	39	47	6
Cincinnati	40	49	6.5
Milwaukee	36	52	10

West

San Francisco	55	34	-
Arizona	50	39	5
Los Angeles	47	42	8
Colorado	46	46	10.5
San Diego	34	57	22

In other headlines...

Baseball ... Giants outfielder Barry Bonds says he will skip the home run contest at the All-Star Game this year.

Tennis ... Wimbledon men's champion Roger Federer (SUI) is ranked No. 3 in the world; women's champ Serena Williams (USA) remains No. 1.

Cycling ... Lance Armstrong is in 12th place after three stages of the Tour de France.

Basketball ... Guard Gary Payton is negotiating to join the Lakers, forward Karl Malone also being considered.

Hockey ... Goaltender Dominec Hasek will return next season, likely with the Red Wings.

Racing ... Matt Kenseth leads Mark Martin by 200 points in Winston Cup standings.

RIO

(From page 1)

Conway. "The way the hotel was hit, someone should have been hurt. We were happy to get to a safe location out of harms way."

While here, Conway said the support received from the 506th has been nothing short of excellent. She said the 506th was ready and prepared to bed down members of Team RIO.

"The response of the 506th was commendable. The welcome we received in this stressful situation allowed our team to relax,

sleep well, and most importantly, get back to work on restoring Iraqi

"The response of the 506th was commendable. The welcome we received in this stressful situation allowed our team to relax, sleep well, and most importantly, get back to work on restoring Iraqi oil,"

— Nola Conway

oil," she said.

"We are also enjoying the facilities which include a base exchange, theater, gym, chapel, air conditioned tents, a pool and the meals are great.

"If there is one thing we are taking home with us, it is that we have learned to take care of each other in Iraq. The quick response of the 506th, providing housing and life support for our team, demonstrates that care extends beyond our group, and for that, we are truly grateful."



Courtesy photo

Safety first

Recently, Kirkuk Air Base suffered a mishap when a vehicle lost control and rolled several times. In another situation in the area of responsibility, a leased dump truck lost traction and flipped over. In both situations, there were only minor injuries because everyone was wearing a seat belt. Had they not been wearing their seat belts, they could have been seriously injured. People are reminded to wear their seat belts at all times.

Commonly used phone numbers

ATOC	460-0038
BDOC	460-0960
CC Supt Section	460-0099
CE Cust. Serv.	460-0021
Chaplain	460-0130
Command Chief	460-0052
Command Post.	460-0077
COMM Help Desk ...	460-0000
Contracting	460-0860
Dining Facility.	460-0605
EMEDS	460-0502
EOD	460-0903
Fire Department	460-0030
Finance	460-0866
First Sergeant	460-0016
Legal	460-0117
Lodging	460-0123
OSI	460-0800
PERSCO	460-0122
Public Affairs	460-0131
Protocol	460-0132
Safety	460-0090
Supply	460-0039

Warrior of the Week

Staff Sgt. Robert Thomas

**506th Air Expeditionary Group
Operations Support Squadron**

Home station: Robins AFB, Ga.

Arrived in AOR: April 15, 2003

Family: Wife, Rachel

Hobbies: Working on the computer and traveling across country

How do you contribute to the mission of the 506th AEG? I provide air traffic services for aircraft arriving and departing Kirkuk, which includes supplies and humanitarian airlift.

What is your favorite aspect of this deployment? Going from nothing and building it into something.

Besides your family, what luxury do you miss most about the states? The freedom to do what I



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Getsy

want or go where I want.

What food do you miss the most?

Any fast food, we already get candy and cookies here.

What's Your Sign?

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)
You're going home now. Stop whining that the showers are terrible and the food is nothing like home. It's time to complain about how lousy television has become since you've been gone.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22)
Fulfill your ego, assert your authority, and create some confusion. Threaten a soldier with an Article 15 this week and see how long it takes for him to realize that noncommissioned officers can't punish.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
You will meet an enchanting stranger on the way back from the Cantina. He's the guy hanging out by

the female caddy in the dark of night wearing night vision goggles. Help him look for his lost contact lens and make a new friend.

Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)
Help your tent mates achieve harmony and balance with each other. Rearrange their personal areas so each one has equitable space. Watch their faces when they come home for that look of surprise.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
Keep your cool when you find out your tent mate has finally flipped out about the space issue. Wait for him to go to sleep then use those extra rolls of duct tape to make sure he doesn't fall out of his bunk.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) You're doing a great job ... just like the voices in your head told you.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20) Remember in the movie "Scanners" when that guy made people's heads explode. That was cool.

Aquarius (Jan. 21 - Feb. 18) Although you'd like to give everyone a second chance, watch out for Capricorn. He keeps giving you that intense stare while mumbling, "C'mon ... explode already."

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) Take the opportunity this week to express your frustration with your job. Keep giving your customers incorrect information and watch them come begging

for more. That'll teach them to be deployed.

Aries (March 21 - April 19)
Take charge of your shop this week. Commit your team to being the finest. Find new ways to encourage involvement. Oh, wait ... your in a one-deep shop. Never mind.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)
Throw caution to the wind and take unplanned chances. Remember, fools rush in, but they get the best seats.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)
Ignore the warnings. Use the water to rinse and brush. You've been feeling way too good the last few days, anyhow.

(Contributed by a member of the 506th AEG)